

REMARKS

Applicants submit herewith an English translation of the PCT application (NUT-044-WO) and have amended the claims in order to reduce the initial filing fee by deleting the multiple dependent claims from the application. Applicants retain the right to reintroduce any subject matter canceled by the present Amendment at any time during the prosecution of this application or any further application claiming benefit of this application.

More particularly, claims 1-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 19-35 added to the application which generally correspond to the original claims. However, the use claims and been replaced with method of use claims in accordance with United States practice. Applicants most respectfully submit that all of the claims in the application are in condition for an examination on the merits taking into consideration the prior art search of record.

In this regard, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Search Report which issued on International Application No. PCT/EP03/00505, of which the present application is the U.S. national phase. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is Applicants' understanding that, under the procedures of the PCT, copies of the cited publications will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office by the International Bureau. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if additional copies are necessary or would facilitate examination of the present application.

Otherwise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed and dated copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm that all publications listed thereon have been considered and made officially of record in the file of this application.

Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document (DE 102 03 999.2, filed February 1, 2002) will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP03/00505
Preliminary Amendment dated: August 2, 2004

In view of the above amendments, an early action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: Richard E. Fichter
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane - 4th Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

REF:kdd
PA01.wpd

DATE: August 2, 2004